

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

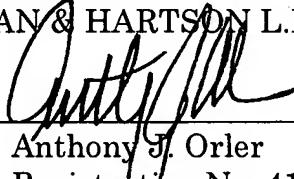
Prior to a first Office Action in this Divisional Application, claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice or waiver. Claims 17-20 are currently amended and remain in the present application. Examination and consideration of the application in light of this preliminary amendment are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: 

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Date: January 29, 2004

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